

## SENATE BILL No. 295

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### DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

**Citations Affected:** IC 10-17-12.

**Synopsis:** Military family relief fund. Amends the definition of "qualified service member" for purposes of the military family relief fund to mean an individual who is an Indiana resident and either: (1) a member of the armed forces of the United States or the national guard serving on or has served on active duty during a time of national conflict or war; or (2) served on active duty during a time of national conflict or war in the armed forces of the United States or the national guard and received an honorable discharge. Amends the purpose of the military family relief fund to provide only for short term financial assistance to families of qualified service members for hardships that result from the qualified service members' military service.

**Effective:** July 1, 2016.

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**Banks, Hershman**

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January 7, 2016, read first time and referred to Committee on Veterans Affairs & The Military.

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Second Regular Session 119th General Assembly (2016)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2015 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

## SENATE BILL No. 295

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning military and veterans.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

1       SECTION 1. IC 10-17-12-0.7, AS AMENDED BY P.L.169-2013,  
2       SECTION 4, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
3       JULY 1, 2016]: Sec. 0.7. ~~(a)~~ The purpose of the fund established in  
4       section 8 of this chapter is to provide  
5       ~~(1)~~ short term financial assistance to families of qualified service  
6       members for hardships that result from the qualified service  
7       members' active duty **military** service. ~~and~~  
8       ~~(2)~~ funding for:  
9       ~~(A)~~ grants for reimbursement for training; and  
10       ~~(B)~~ the purchase of computer equipment and software;  
11       for county and city veterans' service officers:  
12       ~~(b)~~ Funding for the purposes described in subsection (a)(2) must be  
13       provided from the amount transferred to the fund under section 13 of  
14       this chapter.  
15       SECTION 2. IC 10-17-12-1 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1,  
16       2016]. Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "active duty" means full-time  
17       service in the:



1           (1) armed forces; or  
 2           (2) National Guard;  
 3       for a period that exceeds thirty (30) consecutive days:  
 4       SECTION 3. IC 10-17-12-7.5, AS ADDED BY P.L.50-2009,  
 5       SECTION 5, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
 6       JULY 1, 2016]: Sec. 7.5. As used in this chapter, "qualified service  
 7       member" means an individual who is **an Indiana resident and who:**  
 8           (1) an Indiana resident;  
 9           (2) a member of:  
 10           (A) the armed forces; or  
 11           (B) the National Guard; and  
 12           (3) serving on active duty:  
 13           (A) after September 11, 2001; and  
 14           (B) during a time of national conflict or war;  
 15       (1) is:  
 16           (A) a member of the armed forces of the United States or  
 17           the national guard (as defined in IC 5-9-4-4); and  
 18           (B) serving on or has served on active duty during a time  
 19           of national conflict or war; or  
 20       (2) has:  
 21           (A) served on active duty during a time of national conflict  
 22           or war in:  
 23           (i) the armed forces of the United States; or  
 24           (ii) the national guard (as defined in IC 5-9-4-4); and  
 25           (B) received an honorable discharge.  
 26       SECTION 4. IC 10-17-12-8, AS AMENDED BY P.L.7-2014,  
 27       SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
 28       JULY 1, 2016]: Sec. 8. (a) The military family relief fund is established  
 29       to provide assistance with food, housing, utilities, medical services,  
 30       basic transportation, child care, education, employment or workforce,  
 31       and other essential family support expenses that have become difficult  
 32       to afford for qualified service members or dependents of qualified  
 33       service members. ~~The fund may also be used to provide for grants for~~  
 34       ~~reimbursement for training and for computer equipment and software~~  
 35       ~~for county and city veterans' service officers.~~  
 36       (b) Except as provided in section 9 of this chapter, the commission  
 37       shall expend the money in the fund exclusively to provide grants for  
 38       assistance as described in subsection (a).  
 39       (c) The commission shall give priority to applications for grants for  
 40       assistance from the fund to qualified service members or dependents  
 41       of qualified service members who have never received a grant under  
 42       this chapter.



(d) Subject to the approval of the budget agency, the commission shall establish the maximum total dollar amount of grants that may be expended in a state fiscal year. Once the maximum total dollar amount of grants that may be expended in a state fiscal year is reached, no additional grants may be authorized until the start of the following state fiscal year.

(e) The director shall each year provide a report to the budget committee concerning the grant program under this chapter.

(f) A qualified service member or the qualified service member's dependent may be eligible to receive assistance from the fund.

(g) The commission shall administer the fund.

SECTION 5. IC 10-17-12-13 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016]. Sec. 13: (a) The commission shall transfer one hundred eighty thousand dollars (\$180,000) from the veterans' affairs trust fund established by IC 10-17-13-3 to the fund:

(b) There is appropriated to the commission one hundred eighty thousand dollars (\$180,000) from the fund for:

(1) grants for training county and city veterans' service officers under IC 10-17-1-10; and

(2) the purchase of computer equipment and software to be used by the city and county veterans' service officers:

(c) A county or city veterans' service officer may receive a grant for reimbursement for training expenses associated with service officer training, including travel and incidental expenses of eligible county and city veterans' service officers seeking initial or renewal service officer accreditation. A county or city veterans' service officer may receive a grant under this subsection in an amount not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500) for reimbursement. The commission shall set standards for the reimbursement grants. A county or city veterans' service officer may apply to the commission for a reimbursement grant; and the commission may make a grant based on the commission's review of an application.

(d) A county or city that employs a veterans' service officer may receive a grant, in an amount not to exceed one thousand two hundred dollars (\$1,200), for reimbursement for computer equipment and software to enable the veterans' service officer to access national data bases for benefits for veterans. The commission shall set standards for the review of grants for the purchase of computer equipment and software under this subsection. A county or city may apply to the commission for a grant for reimbursement for the purchase of computer equipment and software; and the commission may make a grant based on the commission's review of an application.

